



**BANFF**  
WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL  
JUNE 8-11, 2025

**FINAL  
REPORT**

With global markets shifting, the rise of international co-productions, ongoing regulation and industry consolidation and the rapid advancement of AI technologies, BANFF once again served as a critical space for dialogue, insight and business opportunity.

This year's Festival and Rockie Awards saw participation from 48 countries, reaffirming our role as a truly international hub for the industry. We honoured the first-ever Country of Honour: South Korea, featuring a delegation of the region's top producers. We also welcomed visionaries including Chuck Lorre, Keith Le Goy, and Anjali Sud to this year's keynote lineup alongside panel conversations and facilitated meetings featuring some of the most innovative and influential players in global entertainment.

The newly combined Gala Honours and Rockie Awards recognized the best content from around the world and celebrated the legendary Hans Zimmer, Stephan James, Phil Rosenthal, and Country of Honour South Korea. Hosted by Queen Priyanka, the evening captured the spirit and energy of this evolving era.

We were once again proud to provide crucial career acceleration through programs like the Diversity of Voices Initiative, the Indigenous Screen Summit and the BANFF Spark Producer's Edition. Thanks to industry support, these programs have now served over 1,075 opportunities since their inception, and have become an integral part of both the Festival and the country's talent force.

As the number of global entertainment industry events grows, BANFF remains unique and unparalleled. The connections made at the festival go far beyond the mountains. The collaborations that happen in the Rundle Lounge, out on the hiking trail or at one of the many incredible social events result in content and partnerships that resonates worldwide.

And that is down to the wonderful people who participate and support this important gathering. Thank you to our partners, sponsors, speakers, delegates, and team who made this season such a resounding success. We can't wait to see what the future holds.

See you in the Rockies in 2026!



Jenn Kuzmyk  
Executive Director,  
Banff World Media Festival



# A message from our Executive Director

# Banff Television Festival Foundation Board of Directors



**Sean Cohan**

Chair of the Board,  
BANFF Television Foundation  
President  
**Bell Media**



**Patrick Vien**

Vice-chair of the Board,  
BANFF Television Foundation  
Group Managing Director, International  
**A+E Networks**



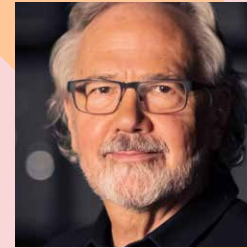
**Kevin Beggs**

Chairman and Chief Creative Officer,  
Lionsgate Television Group and  
Chairman, International Academy of  
Television Arts & Sciences  
**Lionsgate Entertainment**



**Bing Chen**

Executive Chairman & CEO  
**Gold House**



**Tom Cox**

Executive Producer and  
Managing Director  
**SEVEN24 Films**



**Valerie Creighton**

President and CEO  
**Canada Media Fund**



**Nora Felder**

Music Supervisor/Executive Music  
Producer/Producer  
**Picture Music Company, Inc.**



**Prentiss Fraser**

President  
**Fox Entertainment Global**



**Brenda Gilbert**

Co-Founder of BRON Media  
Media Executive & Producer



**Kevin Johnson**

CEO, WPP Media Canada  
and President, WPP  
**WPP Media**



**Jeniffer Kim**

Most recently Senior Vice President,  
International Originals HBO Max  
**HBO Max**



**Lisa Kramer**

President,  
International TV Licensing  
**Paramount Global Content  
Distribution**



**Lisa Meeches**

Founder and Executive Producer  
**Eagle Vision**



**Robin Mirsky**

Executive Director,  
Rogers Group of Funds  
**Rogers Communications**



**Andrew Peterson**

Head of Canada  
**YouTube**



**Jane Rimer**

Senior Vice President, Canada  
**Banijay Rights**



**Justin Stockman**

VP Content Development  
and Programming  
**Bell Media**

# Content Advisory Board



**Ava Knight**  
Director, Acquisitions  
**Fifth Season**



**Saleena Lockett**  
Producer



**Carolyn Newman**  
EVP, Global Scripted  
**Blink49 Studios**



**Leena Minifie**  
Owner / Founder / Producer  
**Stories First**



**Yi Qiao**  
Director, Drama  
**Formerly with**  
**ZDF Studios**



**Jessica Schmiedchen**  
Director of Development,  
Unscripted Content  
**CBC**



**Grace Tran**  
Director of Global Sales  
**Formerly with NBCUniversal**  
**International Studios**



**Cori Wellins**  
Senior Partner  
**WME**

# 4

days of  
in-person  
content and  
connections



# 48

countries participated  
at BANFF and in the  
Rockie Awards

# 57

sessions



# 1,500

meetings facilitated  
by the festival, and  
25,000+ organic  
meetings took place

# COMPANIES AT BANFF

A+E  
NETWORKS

ACTRA

AI for  
Humans

AMAZON  
MGM STUDIOS

Apple tv+

aptn

ASTORY

a+traction

ASD  
Animals See Distribution Inc.

audible

Banijay

BBC

BBC  
STUDIOS

BellMedia

BMG  
PRODUCTION  
MUSIC

BLINK49  
STUDIOS

blue ant  
media

BOAT  
ROCKER

BROADCAST

britbox  
BY BROADCAST & LTV

C21Media

CAA  
Creative Artists Agency

CBC Radio-Canada

CBS STUDIOS

4

CHUCK LOBBE  
PRODUCTIONS

cineflix  
Media

CJ ENM

CMF FMC  
CANADA MEDIA FUND FOND DES MÉDIAS DU CANADA

CMPA  
Canadian Media  
Producers Association

corus.

cpac

DARK  
SLOPE

DEADLINE

Deep Fusion  
FILMS

DGC GCR  
DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA  
GUILDE CANADIENNE DES RÉALISATEURS

Disney

ELEVATION  
PICTURES

Entertainment

ESPN

etalk

EXTRAORDINARY A

france.tv

Fremantle

FIFTH  
SEASON

FOX  
ENTERTAINMENT

FUSEMEDIA

FX  
NETWORKS

GOLD HOUSE

incendo

Just for  
laughs

lark

LIONSGATE

LIONSGATE  
CANADA

LITTLE DOT STUDIOS

MIRAMAX

Mr. Romance

MUSE  
ENTERTAINMENT

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

NBCUniversal

NESHAMA  
ENTERTAINMENT

NETFLIX

New Metric Media

nickelodeon

NIPPON TV

ONTARIO  
CREATES

OUTtv

Paramount+

PLAYBACK

prime

REELWORLD  
SCREEN INSTITUTE | FILM FESTIVAL | DATABASE  
BLACK | INDIGENOUS | PEOPLE OF COLOUR

RIVEGAUCHE

ROGERS

Roku

S4C

SBS

SCRIPPS  
NETWORKS

SEVEN 24

SHIN  
AWI

sky

SONY  
PICTURES

spheremedia

SUNBELT  
RENTALS  
FILM & TV

SUPER  
CHANNEL  
Entertainment Network

TELEFILM  
CANADA PARTNER  
OF CHOICE

TELUS originals

THE  
Hollywood  
REPORTER

The Ankler.

tubi

US  
WEEKLY

VARIETY

WARNER BROS.  
DISCOVERY

WAVE

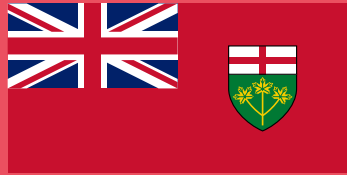
WPP Media

Writers Guild  
of Canada

yle

YouTube

# Canadian attendees



**51%**  
Ontario



**21%**  
Alberta



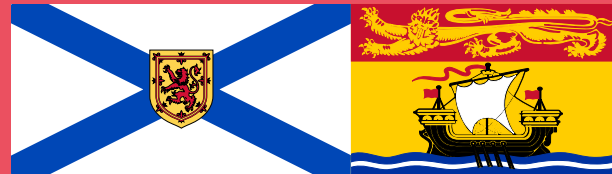
**14%**  
British Columbia



**8%**  
Québec



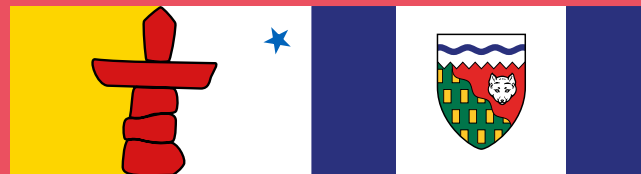
**3%**  
Manitoba



**1.4%**  
the Maritimes  
(Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador)



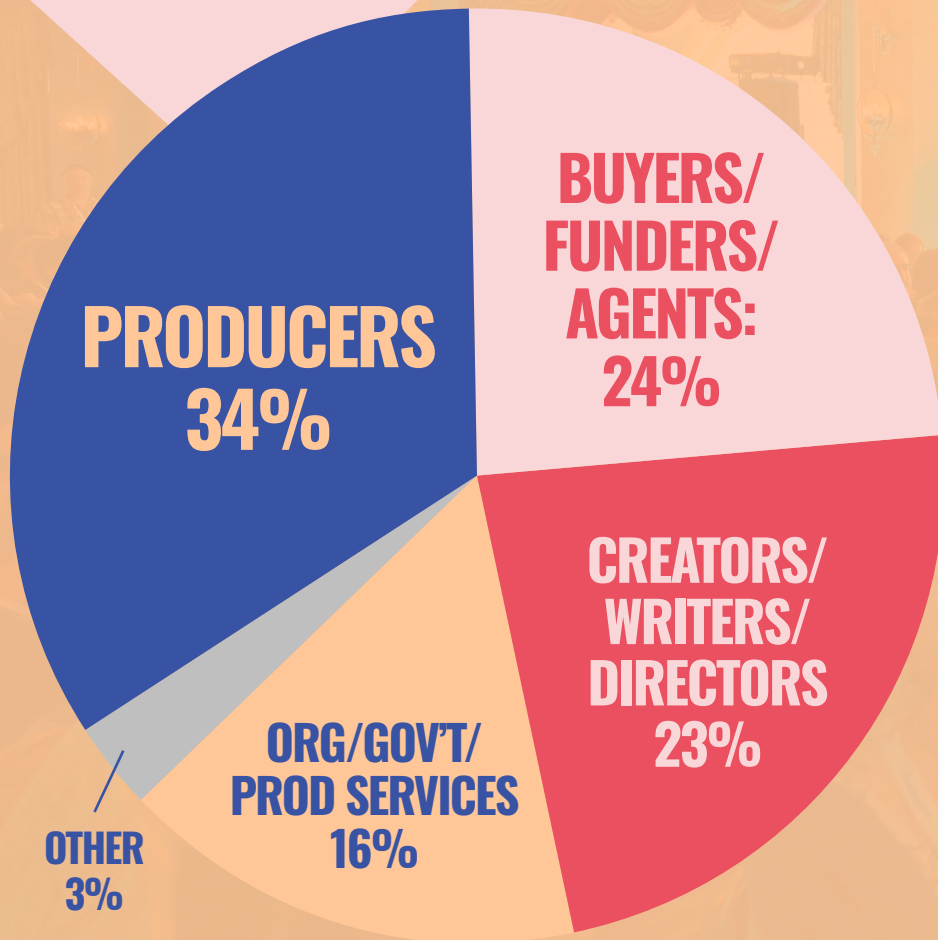
**1.4%**  
Saskatchewan



**0.2%**  
the far North  
(Nunavut and Northwest Territories)

**ATTENDEES  
BY PROVINCE**

# ATTENDEES BY SECTOR



## DELEGATE SURVEY:

**100%**

of respondents said their Festival experience was good, very good, or excellent

**98.6%**

of respondents met with new contacts that they will maintain connections with post-event

**90.5%**

of respondents felt the Festival met their objectives well or very well

**91.8%**

of respondents said they connected with an individual or project that they will be following up on post-event

**95.7%**

of respondents said that BANFF is important or extremely important to their annual business development efforts

**95.9%**

of respondents were satisfied or strongly satisfied with the Festival speakers and session topics

**It's a rare chance to meet so many key industry players and have those conversations that would otherwise take months to arrange. It was a fantastic experience. I was glad to take part in discussions shaping where the industry is headed.**

– Victoria Shen, Executive Director, Writers Guild of Canada

**BANFF is an efficient way to mingle with the most important players in the Canadian marketplace in the most stunning setting possible.**

– Rob Kenneally, Agent, CAA

**BANFF is where global storytelling meets inspiration. The level of curation and diversity was exceptional. It was also meaningful to observe the increasing presence and appreciation of Korean content at BANFF, indicating the global reach of 'Hallyu: the Korean Wave'. With its unmatched setting in the Canadian Rockies and a warm, welcoming industry spirit, BANFF is more than just a market - it's a catalyst for meaningful international collaboration.**

– Hojin Kwon, Senior Executive Director, SBS Medianet

**BANFF is the ideal location to build a bridge between the Americas and Europe, we got to meet so many of the Canadian sector all together, but the bonus was also getting to meet many USA execs and other UK and European execs. As a small English language producer from Ireland, making connections is the key to our future.**

– Larry Bass, CEO, ShinAwiL

**Attending from Germany for the first time, BANFF offered a great opportunity to connect with top-tier creatives from Canada and around the world. The festival's dynamic panel discussions and diverse networking events sparked meaningful conversations that have continued well beyond the summit.**

– Laura Mae Harding, Commissioning Editor for International Co-Productions, ZDF

**DELEGATE  
TESTIMONIALS**

**BANFF is a standout for its unwavering dedication to diversity and innovation. The Indigenous Screen Summit has become an essential platform for Indigenous voices, and the networking opportunities were again, extraordinary. I filled my notebook with invaluable insights. The breathtaking venue only adds to the magic of the festival.**

– Mike Omelus, executive director of content and strategy, APTN

**The Banff World Media Festival is unlike any other. The energy of the place, the people, and the projects is inspiring. You will leave feeling more connected to your colleagues and your art, and reminded why you were drawn to this crazy world of storytelling in the first place. Such a joy!**

– Ashley Michel Hoben, Showrunner

**Speaking at the Banff World Media Festival this year was a professional honor and a personal joy! At a time when the world can feel a bit complicated, being so warmly welcomed in a breathtakingly beautiful spot was a genuine gift.**

– Sharon Scott, President A+E Factual Studios

**As for BANFF — it was actually my first time attending! After 10 years of going to MIPCOM, the experience felt fresh and inspiring. I was genuinely impressed by the energy and openness of the Canadian industry. I'm hopeful this is just the beginning of more meaningful collaboration between Korea and Canada.**

– Soozie Lee, Pogn Canada LTD.

**DELEGATE  
TESTIMONIALS**

# CONFERENCE

# BANFF

## WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL

### SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Korea Content Showcase:  
Where Stories Begin

Spotlight: Netflix Canada

Co-Pro Connect

Spotlight: TVO

Showrunner Superpanel:  
Punchlines and Plot Twists

Spotlight: CBC

Hot Pilot Party: Live Table Read

### MONDAY, JUNE 9

Topic Tables

Spotlight: Bleeding Fingers

Keynote Address: Vicky Eatrdes, CRTC

State of the Nation

Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Speed Meetings

Partner Presentation - The YouTube Playbook  
Driving Success for Media Companies

A "Made in Canada" Game Show with  
Global Appeal featuring Lilly Singh

Meet a Distributor

Summit Series Keynote: Keith Le Goy,  
Sony Pictures Entertainment

Inside K-Content: Building Stories,  
Platforms and IP for a Global Stage

Partner Presentation - Working with Eagle Vision:  
25 Groundbreaking Years, Just Getting Started

Meet a Showrunner or Director

Media Leaders: What's  
Now and What's Next

Speed Meetings:  
Scripted

In Conversation With: Taye Diggs

Summit Series Keynote: Anjali Sud, Tubi

Speed Meetings:  
Unscripted

Summit Series Keynote:  
Chuck Lorre

Meet a Scripted Executive

### TUESDAY, JUNE 10

The Unscripted Session: Strategy, Scale and Storytelling  
+ Breakfast Sponsored by A+E Global Media

Topic Tables

Speed Meetings: Scripted

In Conversation with Stephan James  
- A special taping of CBC Radio's Q with Tom Power

Meet an Unscripted Executive

Studios to Startups: How to Grow Content  
Businesses in a Time Of Rapid Change

Partner Presentation - YouTube at 20:  
Creators Rewriting Hollywood's Playbook

Partner Presentation - Telefilm: In Search of the Eh-list

The Co: Financing, Commissioning & Producing Panel

Spotlight: BBC Studios & BritBox

Meet a Rep

Production Partners

Advance screening of Netflix's Somebody Feed  
Phil S8 with Q&A featuring Phil Rosenthal

Meet a Decision Maker

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Regulations, Ethics, and AI - Oh My!

Get to the Good Stuff Faster: How AI Tools Let You Skip  
Creative Roadblocks (Without Stealing Your Job)

# NETWORKING

This year, BANFF's renowned networking program offered over 1,500 scheduled and drop-in meetings and learning opportunities. Delegates could pitch their projects and connect directly with development executives, producers, showrunners, and key industry decision-makers.

## 1:1 Meetings

Speed Meetings  
Production Partners

## Small Group Meetings

Meet an Agent  
Meet a Decision Maker  
Meet an Unscripted Executive **\*NEW**  
Meet a Scripted Executive **\*NEW**  
Meet a Showrunner or Director  
Meet a Distributor

## Drop-In Networking

Pitch Doctor Virtual Panel  
Topic Tables



**The world's top networks,  
streamers, funders, producers  
and studios took meetings in  
our networking program:**



**ESPN** - Gentry Kirby, Senior Director & Producer

**SBS Medianet** - Hojin Kwon, Senior Executive Director

**YLE** - Jarmo Lampela, Head of Drama

**Joysauce** - Jennifer Liang, Head of Acquisitions

**Sony Pictures** - Eric Phillips, VP Drama Development

**France Télévisions** - Morad Koufane, Head of International Scripted Series

**Windlight Pictures** - Moritz Polter, Executive Producer and Managing Director

**Blink49 Studios** - Pancho Mansfield, President, Global Scripted Television

**ShinAwiL** - Larry Bass, CEO

**Lifetime** - Liz Wise Lyall, SVP Scripted Development & Programming

**Netflix** - Chris Bell, Manager, Content

**Cineflix Productions** - J.C Mills, President & Head of Content

**DSO** - Winnie Luk, Executive Producer

**Roku** - Mary-Anne Taylor, Head of Distribution Content, Canada

**Attraction** - Nicole Hamilton, EVP, English Unscripted Content

**ZDF** - Laura Mae Harding, Commissioning Editor for International Co-Productions

**Amazon MGM Studios** - Samantha De France, Senior Production Executive

**Bell Media** - Sarah Fowlie, Head of Production, Original Programming

**Paramount +** - Rekha Shah, VP, TV Licensing for Paramount Global Content Distribution

**Apple TV +** - Carolyn Carbone, Creative Executive

**APTN** - Lisa Ducharme, Director of Online Content & Deliverables

**TVO** - Natasha Negrea, Head of Programming

**OUTtv** - Lauren Whitelaw, Head of Programming

**CBC** - Lea Marin, Director of Development, Drama

**Paramount +** - Vanessa Case, VP Content Paramount + & PlutoTV

**Lionsgate Canada** - Kerry Appleyard, SVP Scripted & Unscripted Television

**CBC** - Jessica Schiedchen, Director of Development, Unscripted Content

**Audible** - Jolise Beaton, Director of Business Affairs

**BBC** - Ricky Cooper, Commissioning Editor for Factual Entertainment and Events

**Miramax** - Michaela Qvale, TV Development Executive

**Neshama & FOX Entertainment Global** - Brook Peters, SVP, Sales & Business Development

**Elevation** - Jeremy Smith, EVP, Distribution & Sales

**Fifth Season** - Ava Knight, Director, Acquisitions

**Animiki See Distribution** - Jean LaRose, CEO

**BBC Studios** - Jodi Mackie, Senior Director of Content Sales & Co-Productions, Canada

**Boat Rocker** - Natalie Vinet, SVP Global Distribution

**CAA** - Rob Kenneally, Agent

**Disney Entertainment Television** - Jennifer Skoda, Director, International Content

**A + E Global Media** - Michael Gelman, VP Acquisitions & Co-productions

**Nippon Television Network** - Tom Miyauchi, VP, Nippon TV International

**Lark** - Tina Apostolopoulos-Moniz, VP Unscripted

**Blue Ant Media** - Sam Linton, VP Production & Development, Global Media

**Deep Fusion Films** - Benjamin Field, Founder & Executive Producer

**Incendo** - Graham Ludlow, Head of Development & Production

**Paramount** - Lisa Kramer, President, International TV Licensing

**Banijay Rights** - Jane Rimer, SVP Canada

**YouTube** - Andrew Peterson, Head of Canada

**FOX Entertainment Global** - Prentiss Fraser, President



**Keith Le Goy**  
Chairman, Sony  
Pictures Television

# SUMMIT SERIES KEYNOTES



**Anjali Sud**  
CEO, Tubi



**Chuck Lorre**



**Taye Diggs**

**IN  
CONVERSATION  
WITH**



**Phil  
Rosenthal**



**Stephan James**



## Showrunner Superpanel: Plotlines and Plot Twists

Daniel Cerone, Ashley Michel Hoban, Eric Ledgin,  
Justin Spitzer, Jennifer Whalen

Moderator: Elaine Low, The Ankler

## Inside K-Content

Sehee Jang, Head of Marketing, CJ ENM

Gowoon Jeon, Writer/Director

Jungwoo Lee, Head of Mobile TV Service, LG Uplus

Dae Hyung Lim, Writer/Director

June Park, CBO / CSO, Mr. Romance

Moderator: Jordan Pinto, C21 Media



## The Co: Financing, Commissioning & Producing Panel

Alon Aranya, Executive Producer "Tehran", "Your Honor", Paper Plane Productions  
Laura Mae Harding, Commissioning Editor for International Co-Productions, ZDF  
Morad Koufane, Director of International and Young Adult Drama, France  
Televisions

Moritz Polter, Executive Producer & Managing Director, Windlight Pictures  
Jens Richter, CEO Commercial and International, Fremantle Media Limited  
Justin Stockman, VP Content Development and Programming, Bell Media  
Moderator: John Elmes, Broadcast

# Studios to Startups: How to Grow Content Businesses in a Time Of Rapid Change

Shawn Efran, CEO, Bright North Studios

Jonathan Ford, Managing Director, Sphere Abacus

Cheryl Lynch, EVP, Head of Business Affairs & Scripted Formats,  
Sony Pictures Television

Moderator: Sam Sniderman, President, Electric Palm Media



## Spotlight: BBC Studios and Britbox

Robert Schildhouse, President, BritBox North America and  
General Manager, BritBox

Lawrence Szabo, Executive Vice President, U.S. Content  
Distribution, BBC Studios

## Media Leaders

Bing Chen, Executive Chairman & CEO, Gold House

Prentiss Fraser, President, Fox Entertainment Global

Kevin Johnson, CEO, WPP Media Canada and President, WPP Media

John Morayniss, Co-Founder & CEO, Blink49 Studios

Christian Vesper, CEO, Global Drama & Film, FremantleMedia

Moderator: Mikey O'Connell, Variety



# CANADA IN BANFF

## State of The Nation

Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President & CEO, CBC/Radio-Canada

Sean Cohan, President, Bell Media

Colette Watson, President, Rogers Sports & Media

Moderator: Michael Serapio, CPAC



## Spotlight: TVO

Kirsten Hurd, Commissioning Editor, TVOkids

Natasha Negrea, Head of Programming, TVO

Moderator: Mark Bishop, Co-President, Blue Ant Studios

## A "Made in Canada" Game Show with Global Appeal

Michelle Crespi, Executive Producer & Director, Bell Media Studios

Daniel Mekinda, EVP, Head of Motion Entertainment (WPP),  
GroupM Canada Inc.

Lilly Singh, Actress, Writer, Producer

Moderator: Jordan Pinto, C21 Media



## Spotlight: CBC

Jennifer Dettman, Executive Director, Unscripted Content, CBC  
Trish Williams, Executive Director, Scripted Content, CBC  
Noah Segal, Co-President, Elevation Pictures Corp.



## Spotlight: Netflix Canada

Tara Woodbury, Director, Content - Canada, Netflix  
Danielle Woodrow, Director, Content - Canada, Netflix  
Moderator: Carrie Mudd, Founder/Executive Producer,  
Peacock Alley Entertainment

## Special Address

Vicky Eatrides, Chairperson and CEO,  
CRTC Canadian Radio Television &  
Telecommunications Commission



# BANFF

## WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL

**NEW  
THIS  
YEAR**

### LIVE TABLE READ

The cast of *New Spanish* brought writer Andrew De Angelis's sharp political comedy to life at BANFF, following its selection as the top unproduced Canadian comedy pilot in a nationwide search. Featuring Taye Diggs, Jennifer Whalen, Dani Kind, Cody Lightning and more!

**NEW  
THIS  
YEAR**

...fantastic to be back at the Banff  
World Media Festival.

**BANFF**  
WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL

**ACCESSIBILITY AT THE FESTIVAL**

**BANFF**  
WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL

**#WEDNESD-AI**

**How AI Tools Let You Skip Creative Roadblocks  
(Without Stealing Your Job)**

Kevin Pereira, Co-Founder, AI For Humans  
Gavin Purcell, Co-Founder, AI For Humans

**BANFF**  
WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL

**Regulations, Ethics and AI**

Devrin Carlson-Smith, Founder & CEO, Extraordinary AI  
Benjamin Field, Founder & Executive Producer, Deep Fusion Films  
Raja Khanna, Executive Chair, Dark Slope  
Victoria Shen, Executive Director, Writers Guild of Canada



Ministry of Culture, Sports  
and Tourism



BANFF 2025 celebrated its first **Country of Honour**, spotlighting South Korea's global impact on entertainment. In partnership with the **Korea Creative Content Agency (KOCCA)**, the festival welcomed an esteemed delegation of Korean producers who brought vibrant creativity and insight to the program. Highlights included a **showcase of leading studios and production companies**, offering international audiences a window into Korea's innovative storytelling, and a high-profile **panel discussion** examining the global rise of K-Content. The celebration culminated at the prestigious **Rockie Awards**, where a tribute underscored South Korea's groundbreaking creativity and lasting cultural influence across the international media landscape.



# PARTNER PRESENTATIONS

TELEFILM CANADA PARTNER OF CHOICE

Partner Presentation: The Eh List - focussing on the need for an (English) Canadian star system



The Unscripted Session: Strategy, Scale and Storytelling (featuring some of the genre's most powerful women execs and creatives)  
+ Breakfast Sponsored by

A+E  
GLOBAL MEDIA.



YouTube at 20: Creators Rewriting Hollywood's Playbook

The YouTube Playbook Driving Success for Media Companies



# PARTNER PRESENTATIONS

Eagle Vision 25 YEARS  
OF CREATING CONTENT  
THAT CREATES CHANGE

Working with Eagle Vision:  
25 Groundbreaking Years, Just Getting Started



A “Made in Canada”  
Game Show with  
Global Appeal  
featuring  
Lilly Singh

Bell Media



Advance Screening of Netflix’s Somebody  
Feed Phil S8 with  
Q&A featuring Phil Rosenthal  
Followed by a themed cocktail with

**NETFLIX**





5TH ANNUAL

# Indigenous Screen Summit PITCH FORUM

TUESDAY JUNE 10, 2025

At BANFF's Indigenous Screen Summit – Pitch Forum, 13 Indigenous producers took to the Festival's mainstage to present their scripted dramas, comedies, and unscripted/documentary project pitches. They pitched to a panel of industry experts and a packed house of Canadian and international buyers in the audience.



FOUNDING PARTNERS:



SUPPORTING PARTNER:



PRESENTING PARTNER:



## Participant Feedback:

**100%** would recommend participating in the Pitch Forum to a colleague or friend  
**100%** of the Pitch Forum was successful for the participants and their project/business

\* of participating respondents.

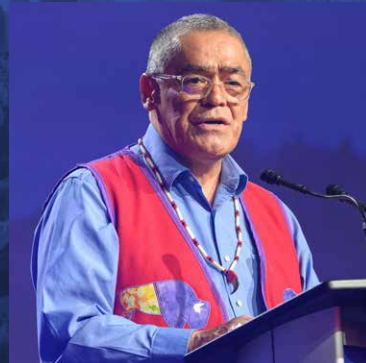
**I secured funding from two broadcasters! I can't emphasize enough how much the emotional and mental aspect of my career has benefited from my participation in BANFF. I tend to minimize my value and the value of my stories but participating in the Indigenous Screen Summit made me feel valued and seen in ways that transcend business. It appears as though I've secured agreements with two major Canadian networks.**

**- Tim Riedel  
Michif Koonteur**



**Participating [in ISS] assisted me to become really focused on my project and to connect with other colleagues and executives...I am grateful to the ISO for travel support. I also had a stronger experience of my Indigenous identity.**

**- Lolly de Jonge  
IndigeKin Productions**



**A wonderful and professionally enriching experience.**

**- Lewis Cardinal  
Red Earth Blue Sky  
Productions**



**An incredible opportunity to pitch your project in front of a live audience at one of North America's premier Film and Television conferences. Congratulations to the organizers, team, and sponsors who bring it to life year after year—truly impressive work.**

**- Alexander Lasheras  
Soler Pictures**



**The exposure was what I needed and the Pitch Forum definitely gave me the confidence to pursue this film venture hard and not let rejection deter my journey.**

**- Shelby Adams  
Dreamcatcher Studio**

# NETFLIX

**BANFF**  
DIVERSITY  
OF VOICES  
INITIATIVE

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



## Launched in 2018

**Returning for its 8th year, the program welcomed 75 individuals to the Festival in 2025. The Diversity of Voices initiative (DOV) has provided nearly 800 opportunities for under-represented professionals to connect with leading industry figures, build meaningful relationships, and advance their projects through strategic collaborations.**

**98%** would rate their experience as excellent and/or good.

**94%** would agree that the program is important to advancing their career and/or projects.

**96%** recommend the program to colleagues/friends.

**NEW**

## DOV Roundtable Session

This informal 30 minute roundtable session provided DOV participants with the opportunity to discuss various topics from global trends to financing models with international buyers and producers.

Buyers and Producers included:

**Lauren Whitelaw**, Head of Programming, OUTtv Network Inc.

**Graham Ludlow**, Head of Development and Production, Incendo

**Brook Peters**, SVP, Sales & Business Development, Neshama & FOX Entertainment Global

**Adam Steinman**, EVP, Global Formats & Acquisitions, Blink49 Studios

**Justin Rebelo**, CEO, Vortex Media

**Brenda Gilbert**, Co-Founder of BRON Media, Media Executive/Producer

**Winnie Luk**, Executive Director of DSO, Disability Screen Office (DSO)

**Kevin Wallis**, Co-Founder / Executive Producer, Longhope Media

**Lea Marin**, Director of Development, Drama, CBC

**Greig Dymond**, Director of Development, Comedy, CBC

**Mike Omelus**, Executive Director Content & Strategy, APTN

**Nora Felder**, Music Supervisor/Executive Music Producer/Producer, Picture Music Company

**Rachel Goldstein-Couto**, Head of Development, Original Programming, Bell Media

**Sam Linton**, VP, Production and Development, Global Media, Blue Ant Media

## DOV Speed Pitches

This one-on-one session offered 25 DOV Pitch Participants an opportunity to discuss their projects with development executives, distributors, programmers and funders whose remit is aligned with the individual's screen-based project content.

Buyers included:

**Ira Levy**, Managing Partner, Spike & Sadie Media

**Jessica Schmiedchen**, Director of Development, Unscripted Content, CBC

**Richard Life**, SVP, Acquisitions & Co-Productions, Cineflix Media

**Kevin Krikst**, Producer, Rhombus Media

**Omar Chalabi**, Head of Digital & Television, Elevation Pictures

**Jane Rimer**, Senior Vice President, Canada, Banijay Rights

**Justin Stockman**, VP Content Development and Programming, Bell Media

**Jennifer Liang**, Head of Acquisitions, JoySauce

**Marianne Lambert**, Directrice Principale Contenus/Senior Director of Content, TFO





**In addition to the measurable outcomes—such as securing a production partner, attaching a co-production partner, and generating buyer interest for a feature—Banff’s Diversity of**

**Voices (DOV) program has offered immense intangible value. The learning opportunities, access to industry leaders, and meaningful networking were invaluable. It positioned our company not only as a creative force, but as a studio with sustained and strategic growth in the industry. Being part of DOV elevated our visibility in a way that would have been difficult to achieve independently. The relationships formed, and the insights gained, continue to shape our development, financing, and market strategies across multiple projects. It is difficult to overstate how important it is that this program continues. For companies like ours—women of color-led, regionally based, and impact-driven—DOV is a rare and necessary catalyst for genuine access and long-term industry integration.**

- Nauzanin Knight  
1844 Studios Inc



**Building relationships and connecting directly with broadcasters has been the most impactful factor in both the progress of my projects and my overall career growth.**

- Patrice Jecrois  
Les Productions Provado Inc.



**Having access to virtually all the key players in our industry under one roof for three days was truly invaluable. I learned so much and felt like I advanced my career at an accelerated pace in such a short time because of it. I now have a much deeper understanding of our industry and what it really takes to get projects made and completed. This experience was priceless, and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to create content and gain a comprehensive understanding of the entire process—from development to distribution.**

- Noor K. Dhanda  
Stranger Than You Productions



The BANFF SPARK Accelerator for Women in the Business of Media: Producers Edition, is aimed at working toward gender parity in the media industry by supporting growth, investment, scaling, and sustainability to women-owned media companies. Twenty-five women who own their own production outfits received a series of customized, virtual sessions covering high-level aspects of business strategy and planning, finance, and marketing best practices; one-on-one 'concierged' meetings with individuals; a Festival pass, travel stipend and curated sessions during the Banff World Media Festival.



Program highlights include:

Paramount+ Cocktail and the  
BANFF Board of Directors Cocktail events  
Two high level networking opportunities  
with C-Suite Executives  
Virtual Workshops

83% are very likely to recommend participating in the program to a colleague or friend

89% found networking opportunities provided by the BANFF Spark program and participation in the 2025 Banff World Media Festival beneficial to their business



**"Simply having access to this market was a big step towards expanding into the TV space."**

Shasha Nakhai  
Compy Films



**"To meet with people who can make your show happen. Priceless."**

Carmen Henriquez  
RealWorld Media Inc./RealWorld Films Inc.



**We had some wonderful meetings with broadcasters and streamers as well as some creatives and will be continuing the conversations post BANFF. All the sessions were extremely informative and real-world so to speak. Practical and the presenters generous with their presentation and our questions. The program was excellent and the support prior to and during BANFF was also very much appreciated. It was really well thought out and organized. I look forward to our final virtual session in terms of information but also to reunite! Thank you!**

Rosalia Chilelli  
Edge Entertainment



**Inspiring to see the success of others, as well as to focus on my own successes. We were able to celebrate in the collective.**

Teresa Ho  
100 Dragons

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a social event, likely a festival or awards ceremony, taken at night. The scene is dimly lit with a strong blue color cast. In the foreground, the backs of several people are visible as they look towards the event. In the background, a large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling of a room with high ceilings and pillars. The overall atmosphere is that of a busy, high-profile gathering.

# 48

## **countries participated at the Festival and Rockie Awards**

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium,  
Canada, China, Columbia, Czech Republic,  
Denmark, Ecuador, England, Estonia, France,  
Finland, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Iran,  
Israel, Italy , Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg,  
Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand,  
Northern Ireland, Norway, Panama, Poland,  
Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Singapore, South Korea,  
Spain, Sri Lanka Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, The  
Philippines, Ukraine USA, Wales

BANFF WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL

**ROCKIE**

*Gala*  
**HONOURS**

A night of celebration  
recognizing outstanding  
talent, executives and  
trailblazing innovators from  
around the world since 1979.

Award  
of  
Excellence



**Phil  
Rosenthal**

Canadian  
Award of  
Distinction



**Stephan  
James**

Career  
Achievement  
Award



**Hans  
Zimmer**

Country of Honour:  
**South Korea**



Ministry of Culture, Sports  
and Tourism

**KOCCA**  
KOREA CREATIVE CONTENT AGENCY

BANFF WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL  
**ROCKIE  
AWARDS**

BANFF WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL

# ROCKIE AWARDS

Celebrating the best  
in global content with  
this year's competition  
featuring **152 nominees**  
across 30 categories,  
selected from entries  
submitted by 45  
countries.

[See all 2025  
Winners & Nominees](#)

Winners include:



BANFF WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL  
**ROCKIE  
AWARDS**  
**GRAND  
JURY**



**Hojin Kwon**  
Senior Executive Director  
**SBS (Seoul Broadcasting System)**  
**Medianet**



**Adam Lewinson**  
Chief Content Officer  
**Tubi**



**Meghan Lyvers**  
Executive Director,  
Original Scripted, UK & Ireland  
**Sky**



**Sitarah Pendelton-Eaglin**  
EVP, Head of Unscripted Series  
**SHOWTIME/MTV Entertainment**  
**Studios & Paramount Media Networks**



**Christian Vesper**  
CEO, Global Drama and Film  
**Fremantle**

The Rockie Awards jury includes 150+ senior international professionals representing the entertainment and media industry's most influential players, including the world's top studios, streamers and production companies. Our esteemed Grand Jury determines the coveted Grand Jury Prize.



**PRIX FRANCOPHONE  
WINNER**



**Être ado (Teenagers)**  
(CANADA)

Sponsored by  **CMF FMC**

**ROGERS PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN CANADIAN CONTENT  
WINNER**



**Leonard Cohen: If It Be Your Will**  
(CANADA)

Sponsored by  **ROGERS**

**CARRIE HUNTER  
EMERGING TALENT PRIZE  
WINNER**



**Marushka Almeida, Nisha Khan,  
and Rabiya Mansoor**  
**Get Up, Aisha**  
(CANADA)

**GRAND JURY PRIZE  
WINNER**



**Hell Jumper**  
(UK)



# SPONSORED EVENTS

CMPA's Global  
decision-makers dinner



Late Night Awards  
After Party  
Sponsored by Netflix

DGC's private  
cocktail/session



# SPONSORED EVENTS

Somebody Feed Phil  
Screening and Cocktail



Government of Alberta  
Mix & Mingle

Alberta Music Night



# Grand Patrons



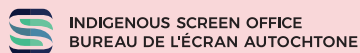
# Country of Honour



## PLATINUM PARTNERS



## GOLD PARTNERS



## PLATINUM MUSIC SHOWCASE PARTNERS



## SILVER PARTNERS



## BRONZE PARTNERS



## FESTIVAL PARTNERS



Dreamspeakers Film Festival



## ASSOCIATION PARTNERS



## PLATINUM PRODUCTION PARTNER



## MEDIA PARTNERS



## PRODUCTION PARTNERS



## ACCESSIBILITY PARTNERS



# The Banff World Media Festival's Legacy Forest

Help us grow a greener future.



Trees planted will help support the  
Piikani Nation Project & Coyote  
Lake Lodge Project





**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JUNE 14 - 17, 2026**